

What is claimed is:

1. A wound closure for closing a wound in skin, the wound closure comprising:
 - an adhesive for adhering the wound closure to skin;
 - 5 opposing elastomeric end portions; and
 - a wound bridging portion between the end portions;
 - wherein the wound closure recovers at least 85% after being stretched 30%, and wherein the wound bridging portion stretches less than the end portions when subjected to the same force, whereby the wound bridging portion
 - 10 tends to maintain the wound closed against forces generated by stretching of skin.
2. The wound closure according to claim 1, wherein the wound bridging portion stretches 8% or less when the wound closure stretches 30%.
- 15 3. The wound closure according to claim 1, wherein the wound bridging portion recovers 100% after the wound closure recovers at least 85% after stretching 30%.
- 20 4. The wound closure according to claim 1, wherein the wound closure recovers at least 95% after being stretched 30%, and wherein the wound bridging portion stretches 5% or less when the wound closure stretches 30%.
5. The wound closure according to claim 4, wherein the wound bridging portion stretches 1% or less when the wound closure stretches 30%.
- 25 6. The wound closure according to claim 1, wherein the wound closure has a length and width, the wound bridging portion comprising a neck having a width less than the width of the end portions.

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- 7. The wound closure according to claim 1, wherein the end portions have unequal lengths as measured from the wound bridging portion to the ends of the wound closure.
- ✓ 5 8. The wound closure according to claim 1, wherein the adhesive comprises a pressure sensitive adhesive layer, and further wherein any of the pressure sensitive adhesive in the wound bridging portion is covered.
- ✓ 9. A wound closure for closing a wound in skin, the wound closure comprising:
 - 10 opposing end portions and an intermediate portion separating the end portions; and
 - an adhesive for adhering the wound closure to skin;
 - wherein the end portions and the intermediate portion comprise an elastomeric backing;
 - 15 and wherein a reinforcing layer is attached to the backing only in the intermediate portion such that the intermediate portion defines a wound bridging portion comprising the elastomeric backing and the reinforcing layer;
 - and further wherein the wound closure recovers at least 85% after being stretched 30% and the wound bridging portion stretches less than the end portions when subjected to the same force, whereby the wound bridging portion tends to maintain the wound closed against forces generated by stretching of skin.
 - 20 10. The wound closure according to claim 9, wherein the wound bridging portion stretches 8% or less when the wound closures stretches 30%.
 - 25 11. The wound closure according to claim 9, wherein the wound closure recovers at least 95% after being stretched 30%, and wherein the wound bridging portion stretches 5% or less when the wound closure stretches 30%.
 - 30 12. The wound closure according to claim 11, wherein the wound bridging portion stretches 1% or less when the wound closure stretches 30%.

13. The wound closure according to claim 9, wherein the wound bridging portion recovers 100% after the wound closure recovers at least 85% after stretching 30%.

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14. The wound closure according to claim 9, wherein the wound closure has a length and width, the wound bridging portion comprising a neck having a width less than the width of the end portions.

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15. The wound closure according to claim 9, wherein the end portions have unequal lengths as measured from the wound bridging portion to the ends of the wound closure.

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16. The wound closure according to claim 9, wherein the adhesive comprises a pressure sensitive adhesive layer on the end portions for adhering the wound closure to skin, and further wherein the reinforcing layer covers the pressure sensitive adhesive in the wound bridging portion.

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17. The wound closure according to claim 9, wherein the reinforcing layer comprises a polymeric film.

18. The wound closure according to claim 17, wherein the polymeric film has a thickness of 75 microns or less.

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19. A wound closure for closing a wound in skin, the wound closure comprising:

an adhesive for adhering the wound closure to skin;

two opposing end portions located at opposing ends along a length of the wound closure; and

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a wound bridging portion separating the opposing end portions, the wound bridging portion having a width less than a width of the end portions;

wherein the opposing end portions comprise unequal lengths as measured from the wound bridging portion to the ends of the wound closure.

20. The wound closure according to claim 19, wherein the adhesive comprises a
5 pressure sensitive adhesive layer, and further wherein any of the pressure
sensitive adhesive in the wound bridging portion is covered.

21. The wound closure according to claim 19, wherein the end portions and the
10 wound bridging portion comprise an elastomeric backing, and wherein a
reinforcing layer is attached to the backing only in the wound bridging portion,
such that the wound bridging portion comprises the elastomeric backing and the
reinforcing layer.

22. The wound closure according to claim 21, wherein the reinforcing layer
15 comprises a polymeric film.

23. The wound closure according to claim 22, wherein the polymeric film has
a thickness of 75 microns or less.

20 24. A method of tending a wound, comprising:
providing a wound closure having a short side and a long side, the wound
closure comprising:

25 an adhesive for adhering the wound closure to skin;
two opposing end portions located at opposing ends along
a length of the wound closure; and
a wound bridging portion separating the opposing end
portions, the wound bridging portion having a width less than a
width of the end portions;

30 wherein the opposing end portions comprise unequal
lengths as measured from the wound bridging portion to the ends
of the wound closure, with the shorter end portion comprising the

short side of the wound closure and the longer end portion comprising the long side of the wound closure; and adhering the wound closure to a patient such that the wound bridging portion spans a wound.

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25. The method according to claim 24, wherein at least two wound closures are adhered to the patient, and wherein the short side of a first wound closure is located on the same side of the wound as the long side of a second wound closure.

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26. The method according to claim 24, wherein the wound closure recovers at least 85% after being stretched 30%, and wherein the wound bridging portion stretches less than the end portions when subjected to the same force, whereby the wound bridging portion tends to maintain the wound closed against forces generated by stretching of skin.

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27. The method according to claim 26, wherein the wound bridging portion stretches 8% or less when the wound closure stretches 30%.

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28. The method according to claim 26, wherein the wound bridging portion recovers 100% after the wound closure recovers at least 85% after stretching 30%.

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29. The method according to claim 26, wherein the wound closure recovers at least 95% after being stretched 30%, and wherein the wound bridging portion stretches 5% or less when the wound closure stretches 30%.

30. The method according to claim 29, wherein the wound bridging portion stretches 1% or less when the wound closure stretches 30%.